

**Calendar No. 585**

109<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

**S. 1902**

**[Report No. 109-323]**

To amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize funding for the establishment of a program on children and the media within the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to study the role and impact of electronic media in the development of children.

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**IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES**

OCTOBER 20, 2005

Mr. LIEBERMAN (for himself, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. SANTORUM, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. BAYH) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

SEPTEMBER 5, 2006

Reported by Mr. ENZI, with an amendment

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italie*]

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**A BILL**

To amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize funding for the establishment of a program on children and the media within the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to study the role and impact of electronic media in the development of children.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
 2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Children and Media  
 5       Research Advancement Act” or the “CAMRA Act”.

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

7       (a) **FINDINGS.**—Congress makes the following find-  
 8       ings:

9               (1) Congress has recognized the important role  
 10       of electronic media in children’s lives when it passed  
 11       the Children’s Television Act of 1990 (Public Law  
 12       101–437) and the Telecommunications Act of 1996  
 13       (Public Law 104–104), both of which documented  
 14       public concerns about how electronic media products  
 15       influence children’s development.

16              (2) Congress has held hearings over the past  
 17       several decades to examine the impact of specific  
 18       types of media products such as violent television,  
 19       movies, and video games on children’s and adoles-  
 20       cents’ health and development. These hearings and  
 21       other public discussions about the role of media in  
 22       children’s and adolescents’ development require be-  
 23       havioral and social science research to inform the  
 24       policy deliberations.

1           (3) There are important gaps in our knowledge  
 2           about the role of electronic media and in particular,  
 3           the newer interactive digital media, in children's and  
 4           adolescents' healthy development. The consequences  
 5           of very early screen usage by babies and toddlers on  
 6           children's cognitive growth are not yet understood,  
 7           nor has a research base been established on the psy-  
 8           chological consequences of high definition interactive  
 9           media and other format differences for child and ad-  
 10          olescent viewers.

11          (4) Studies have shown that children who pri-  
 12          marily watch educational shows on television during  
 13          their preschool years are significantly more success-  
 14          ful in school 10 years later even when critical con-  
 15          tributors to the child's environment are factored in,  
 16          including their household income, parent's education,  
 17          and intelligence.

18          (5) The early stages of childhood are a critical  
 19          formative period for development. Virtually every as-  
 20          pect of human development is affected by the envi-  
 21          ronments and experiences that one encounters dur-  
 22          ing his or her early childhood years, and media expo-  
 23          sure is an increasing part of every child's social and  
 24          physical environment.

1           (6) As of the late 1990's, just before the Na-  
 2           tional Institute of Child Health and Human Devel-  
 3           opment funded 5 studies on the role of sexual mes-  
 4           sages in the media on children's and adolescents'  
 5           sexual attitudes and sexual practices; a review of re-  
 6           search in this area found only 15 studies ever con-  
 7           ducted in the United States on this topic, even dur-  
 8           ing a time of growing concerns about HIV infection.

9           (7) In 2001, a National Academy of Sciences  
 10          study group charged with studying Internet pornog-  
 11          raphy exposure on youth found virtually no lit-  
 12          erature about how much children and adolescents  
 13          were exposed to Internet pornography or how such  
 14          content impacts their development.

15          (8) In order to develop strategies that maximize  
 16          the positive and minimize the negative effects of  
 17          each medium on children's physical, cognitive, social,  
 18          and emotional development, it would be beneficial to  
 19          develop a research program that can track the media  
 20          habits of young children and their families over time  
 21          using valid and reliable research methods.

22          (9) Research about the impact of the media on  
 23          children and adolescents is not presently supported  
 24          through one primary programmatic effort. The re-  
 25          sponsibility for directing the research is distributed

1 across disparate agencies in an uncoordinated fash-  
2 ion, or is overlooked entirely. The lack of any cen-  
3 tralized organization for research minimizes the  
4 value of the knowledge produced by individual stud-  
5 ies. A more productive approach for generating valu-  
6 able findings about the impact of the media on chil-  
7 dren and adolescents would be to establish a single,  
8 well-coordinated research effort with primary respon-  
9 sibility for directing the research agenda.

10 (10) Due to the paucity of research about elec-  
11 tronic media, educators and others interested in im-  
12 plementing electronic media literacy initiatives do  
13 not have the evidence needed to design, implement,  
14 or assess the value of these efforts.

15 (b) PURPOSE.—It is the purpose of this Act to enable  
16 the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to—

17 (1) examine the role and impact of electronic  
18 media in children's and adolescents' cognitive, social,  
19 emotional, physical, and behavioral development; and

20 (2) provide for a report to Congress containing  
21 the empirical evidence and other results produced by  
22 the research funded through grants under this Act.

1 **SEC. 3. RESEARCH ON THE ROLE AND IMPACT OF ELEC-**  
 2 **TRONIC MEDIA IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF**  
 3 **CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS.**

4 Part P of title III of the Public Health Service Act  
 5 (42 U.S.C. 280g et seq.) is amended by adding at the end  
 6 the following:

7 **“SEC. 3990. RESEARCH ON THE ROLE AND IMPACT OF**  
 8 **ELECTRONIC MEDIA IN THE DEVELOPMENT**  
 9 **OF CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS.**

10 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Centers for  
 11 Disease Control and Prevention (referred to in this section  
 12 as the ‘Director’) shall enter into appropriate arrange-  
 13 ments with the National Academy of Science in collabora-  
 14 tion with the Institute of Medicine to establish an inde-  
 15 pendent panel of experts to review, synthesize and report  
 16 on research, theory, and applications in the social, behav-  
 17 ioral, and biological sciences and to establish research pri-  
 18 orities regarding the positive and negative roles and im-  
 19 pact of electronic media use, including television, motion  
 20 pictures, DVD’s, interactive video games, and the Inter-  
 21 net, and exposure to that content and medium on youth  
 22 in the following core areas of child and adolescent develop-  
 23 ment:

24 “(1) COGNITIVE.—The role and impact of  
 25 media use and exposure in the development of chil-  
 26 dren and adolescents within such cognitive areas as

1 language development, attention span, problem solv-  
 2 ing skills (such as the ability to conduct multiple  
 3 tasks or ‘multitask’), visual and spatial skills, read-  
 4 ing, and other learning abilities.

5 “(2) PHYSICAL.—The role and impact of media  
 6 use and exposure on children’s and adolescents’  
 7 physical coordination, diet, exercise, sleeping and  
 8 eating routines, and other areas of physical develop-  
 9 ment.

10 “(3) SOCIO-BEHAVIORAL.—The influence of  
 11 interactive media on children’s and adolescents’ fam-  
 12 ily activities and peer relationships, including indoor  
 13 and outdoor play time, interaction with parents, con-  
 14 sumption habits, social relationships, aggression,  
 15 prosocial behavior, and other patterns of develop-  
 16 ment.

17 “(b) PILOT PROJECTS.—During the first year in  
 18 which the National Academy of Sciences panel is summa-  
 19 rizing the data and creating a comprehensive research  
 20 agenda in the children and adolescents and media area  
 21 under subsection (a), the Secretary shall provide for the  
 22 conduct of initial pilot projects to supplement and inform  
 23 the panel in its work. Such pilot projects shall consider  
 24 the role of media exposure on—

1           “(1) cognitive and social development during in-  
2           fancy and early childhood; and

3           “(2) the development of childhood and adoles-  
4           cent obesity, particularly as a function of media ad-  
5           vertising and sedentary lifestyles that may co-occur  
6           with heavy media diets.

7           “(c) RESEARCH PROGRAM.—Upon completion of the  
8           review under subsection (a), the Director of the Centers  
9           for Disease Control and Prevention shall develop and im-  
10          plement a program that funds additional research deter-  
11          mined to be necessary by the panel under subsection (a)  
12          concerning the role and impact of electronic media in the  
13          cognitive, physical, and socio-behavioral development of  
14          children and adolescents with a particular focus on the  
15          impact of factors such as media content, format, length  
16          of exposure, age of child or adolescent, and nature of pa-  
17          rental involvement. Such program shall include extramural  
18          and intramural research and shall support collaborative ef-  
19          forts to link such research to other Department of Health  
20          and Human Services research investigations on early child  
21          health and development.

22          “(d) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—To be eligible to receive  
23          a grant under this section, an entity shall—

24                 “(1) prepare and submit to the Director an ap-  
25                 plication at such time, in such manner, and con-

1       taining such information as the Director may re-  
2       quire; and

3           ~~“(2) agree to use amounts received under the~~  
4       ~~grant to carry out activities that establish or imple-~~  
5       ~~ment a research program relating to the effects of~~  
6       ~~media on children and adolescents pursuant to~~  
7       ~~guidelines developed by the Director relating to con-~~  
8       ~~sultations with experts in the area of study.~~

9       ~~“(e) USE OF FUNDS RELATING TO THE MEDIA’S~~  
10   ~~ROLE IN THE LIFE OF A CHILD OR ADOLESCENT.—An~~  
11   ~~entity shall use amounts received under a grant under this~~  
12   ~~section to conduct research concerning the social, cog-~~  
13   ~~nitive, emotional, physical, and behavioral development of~~  
14   ~~children or adolescents as related to electronic mass~~  
15   ~~media, including the areas of—~~

16           ~~“(1) television;~~

17           ~~“(2) motion pictures;~~

18           ~~“(3) DVD’s;~~

19           ~~“(4) interactive video games;~~

20           ~~“(5) the Internet; and~~

21           ~~“(6) cell phones.~~

22       ~~“(f) REPORTS.—~~

23           ~~“(1) REPORT TO DIRECTOR.—Not later than 12~~  
24   ~~months after the date of enactment of this section,~~

1 the panel under subsection (a) shall submit the re-  
2 port required under such subsection to the Director.

3 ~~“(2) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—~~Not later than  
4 December 31, 2011, the Director shall prepare and  
5 submit to the Committee on Health, Education,  
6 Labor, and Pensions of the Senate, and Committee  
7 on Education and the Workforce of the House of  
8 Representatives a report that—

9 ~~“(A) summarizes the empirical evidence~~  
10 ~~and other results produced by the research~~  
11 ~~under this section in a manner that can be un-~~  
12 ~~derstood by the general public;~~

13 ~~“(B) places the evidence in context with~~  
14 ~~other evidence and knowledge generated by the~~  
15 ~~scientific community that address the same or~~  
16 ~~related topics; and~~

17 ~~“(C) discusses the implications of the col-~~  
18 ~~lective body of scientific evidence and knowledge~~  
19 ~~regarding the role and impact of the media on~~  
20 ~~children and adolescents, and makes rec-~~  
21 ~~ommendations on how scientific evidence and~~  
22 ~~knowledge may be used to improve the healthy~~  
23 ~~developmental and learning capacities of chil-~~  
24 ~~dren and adolescents.~~

1       “(g) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There  
 2 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this sec-  
 3 tion—

4               “(1) \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2006;

5               “(2) \$15,000,000 for fiscal year 2007;

6               “(3) \$15,000,000 for fiscal year 2008;

7               “(4) \$25,000,000 for fiscal year 2009; and

8               “(5) \$25,000,000 for fiscal year 2010.”.

9   **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

10       *This Act may be cited as the “Children and Media Re-*  
 11 *search Advancement Act” or the “CAMRA Act”.*

12 **SEC. 2. PURPOSE.**

13       *It is the purpose of this Act to enable the Centers for*  
 14 *Disease Control and Prevention to—*

15               (1) *examine the role and positive and negative*  
 16 *impact of electronic media in children’s and adoles-*  
 17 *cents’ cognitive, social, emotional, physical, and be-*  
 18 *havioral development; and*

19               (2) *provide for a report to Congress containing*  
 20 *the empirical evidence and other results produced by*  
 21 *the research funded through grants under this Act.*

1 **SEC. 3. RESEARCH ON THE ROLE AND IMPACT OF ELEC-**  
 2 **TRONIC MEDIA IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF**  
 3 **CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS.**

4 *Part P of title III of the Public Health Service Act*  
 5 *(42 U.S.C. 280g et seq.) is amended—*

6 *(1) by redesignating the second section 399O (re-*  
 7 *lating to grants to foster public health responses to*  
 8 *domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and*  
 9 *stalking) as section 399P; and*

10 *(2) by adding at the end the following:*

11 **“SEC. 399Q. RESEARCH ON THE ROLE AND IMPACT OF**  
 12 **ELECTRONIC MEDIA IN THE DEVELOPMENT**  
 13 **OF CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS.**

14 *“(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of ap-*  
 15 *propriations, the Secretary, acting through the Director of*  
 16 *the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (referred to*  
 17 *in this section as the ‘Director’), shall enter into a contract*  
 18 *with the National Academy of Science or another appro-*  
 19 *priate entity to review, synthesize, and report on research,*  
 20 *and establish research priorities, regarding the roles and*  
 21 *impact of electronic media (including television, motion*  
 22 *pictures, DVD’s, interactive video games, digital music, the*  
 23 *Internet, and cell phones) and exposures to such media on*  
 24 *youth in the following core areas of development:*

25 *“(1) COGNITIVE.—Cognitive areas such as lan-*  
 26 *guage development, attention span, problem solving*

1 *skills (such as the ability to conduct multiple tasks or*  
 2 *‘multitask’), visual and spatial skills, reading, and*  
 3 *other learning abilities.*

4 “(2) *PHYSICAL.*—*Physical areas such as physical*  
 5 *coordination, diet, exercise, sleeping and eating rou-*  
 6 *tines.*

7 “(3) *SOCIO-BEHAVIORAL.*—*Socio-behavioral*  
 8 *areas such as family activities and peer relationships*  
 9 *including indoor and outdoor play time, interactions*  
 10 *with parents, consumption habits, social relation-*  
 11 *ships, aggression, and positive social behavior.*

12 “(b) *RESEARCH PROGRAM.*—

13 “(1) *IN GENERAL.*—*Taking into account the re-*  
 14 *port provided for under subsection (a), the Secretary,*  
 15 *acting through the Director and in coordination with*  
 16 *the Director of the National Institutes of Health,*  
 17 *shall, subject to the availability of appropriations,*  
 18 *award grants for research concerning the role and im-*  
 19 *pact of electronic media on the cognitive, physical,*  
 20 *and socio-behavioral development of youth.*

21 “(2) *REQUIREMENTS.*—*The research provided for*  
 22 *under paragraph (1) shall comply with the following*  
 23 *requirements:*

24 “(A) *Such research shall focus on the im-*  
 25 *pact of factors such as media content (whether*

1       *direct or indirect), format, length of exposure,*  
 2       *age of youth, venue, and nature of parental in-*  
 3       *volvement.*

4               “(B) *Such research shall not duplicate other*  
 5       *Federal research activities.*

6               “(C) *For purposes of such research, elec-*  
 7       *tronic media shall include television, motion pic-*  
 8       *tures, DVD’s, interactive video games, digital*  
 9       *music, the Internet, and cell phones.*

10              “(3) *ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—To be eligible to re-*  
 11       *ceive a grant under this subsection, an entity shall—*

12               “(A) *prepare and submit to the Director an*  
 13       *application at such time, in such manner, and*  
 14       *containing such information as the Director*  
 15       *shall require; and*

16               “(B) *agree to use amounts received under*  
 17       *the grant to carry out activities as described in*  
 18       *this subsection.*

19              “(c) *REPORTS.—*

20               “(1) *REPORT TO THE DIRECTOR.—Not later*  
 21       *than 15 months after the date of the enactment of this*  
 22       *section, the report provided for under subsection (a)*  
 23       *shall be submitted to the Director and to the appro-*  
 24       *priate committees of Congress.*

1           “(2) *REPORT TO CONGRESS.*—Not later than De-  
2           *cember 31, 2012, the Secretary, acting through the*  
3           *Director, shall prepare and submit to the appropriate*  
4           *committees of Congress a report that—*

5                     “(A) *synthesizes the results of—*

6                             “(i) *research carried out under the*  
7                             *grant program under subsection (b); and*

8                             “(ii) *other related research, including*  
9                             *research conducted by the private or public*  
10                            *sector and other Federal entities; and*

11                    “(B) *outlines existing research gaps in light*  
12                    *of the information described in subparagraph*  
13                    *(A).*

14           “(d) *AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.*—*There is*  
15           *authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section, such*  
16           *sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years 2007*  
17           *through 2012.”.*

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109<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> Session

**S. 1902**

[Report No. 109-323]

**A BILL**

To amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize funding for the establishment of a program on children and the media within the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to study the role and impact of electronic media in the development of children.

SEPTEMBER 5, 2006

Reported with an amendment